

MINUTES
SCOTTSDALE CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
Public Meeting
Thursday, April 15, 2004
Plan Review Conference Room
7447 E. Indian School Building, Suite 125
Scottsdale, AZ 85215

Subcommittee: Councilman Bob Littlefield, Chairman
Vice Mayor Wayne Ecton
Councilman David Ortega

Staff: Jan Dolan Jeff Nichols
Craig Clifford Art Rullo
Brent Stockwell

CALL TO ORDER

Councilman Littlefield called the Scottsdale City Council Budget Subcommittee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COUNCILMAN ORTEGA MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 11, 2004, MARCH 23, 2004, MARCH 26, 2004 AND APRIL 2, 2004 MEETING MINUTES. VICE MAYOR ECTON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED 3/0.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Discuss subcommittee's recommendations on the proposed FY 2004/05 Budget

Chairman Littlefield explained that the Cultural Council budget would not be available until April 27, 2004. He inquired if they want to defer a recommendation until after April 27th.

Vice Mayor Ecton stated that they do not have any control over the allocation so his concern is regarding how they spend the money. He proposed that they go ahead and include the Cultural Council budget in the package and they will review it when it is made available.

Councilman Ortega stated regarding the line item for City of Scottsdale support of maintenance on School District youth sports fields, he would recommend Option A, which would continue the funding and eliminate the fee. He further stated that he felt they needed to show good faith by eliminating the fee this year.

It was noted that the city will continue to tend the fields and will add an additional \$100,000 to the budget. The subcommittee discussed the benefits of Option A. It was also discussed that everyone agrees that the program worked in terms of making the fields nicer and puts everyone on level ground.

Vice Mayor Ecton stated that he supports what they are talking about but felt this sets a tone for the future noting it is a one year commitment but that says to a lot of people this will be there forever. Ms. Dolan recommended that the Council at some point during the year review the partnership fund.

Vice Mayor Ecton stated the Appaloosa Library was approved in the 2000 Bond but that it has not been placed in the budget. He further stated he knew that the issue has been operating costs, but he felt there was room in the budget. He remarked he would like this library to be open as soon as possible because there are at least 4,000 children that did not have adequate libraries in the north side of the city. Ms. Dolan explained that the designers would start working on the plans and then aim for an opening date in FY 2008/2009.

Vice Mayor Ecton explained that the Police Department has been negotiating with the City of Phoenix about sharing the purchase of a helicopter noting those discussions are ongoing. He further explained that there become issues with priority when partnering. He stated he felt since Scottsdale voted on the helicopters four years ago they should start to move ahead with the program. Ms. Dolan provided information on the negotiations with Phoenix regarding the helicopters.

Chairman Littlefield stated the City could own the helicopters, rent a hanger, and have them maintained in Phoenix. It was determined they would leave this in the five year capital budget but put it in year three.

(Councilman Ortega left at 5:35 p.m.)

Vice Mayor Ecton stated there are four CIP projects in the Downtown:

- 1) Downtown façade program
- 2) Downtown signage
- 3) Downtown streetscape
- 4) Downtown lighting improvements

He inquired if the dollars in the budget were enough. Mr. Nichols stated those dollars were included in the program for general improvements in the downtown area and a staff member is assessing those needs.

Ms. Dolan reported that Councilwoman-Elect Drake has submitted some capital items and staff would have responses to her questions at the Monday

subcommittee meeting. It was noted that there might be the need to reschedule that meeting to allow the subcommittee time to review answers to Councilwoman-Elect Drake's questions.

Vice Mayor Ecton stated a question keeps coming up regarding in house legal staffing and they never get a good answer. He suggested staff provide them with a document that logically explains the legal department's staffing. Ms. Dolan stated that she would have the City Attorney prepare a document. She further stated that they could not always predict the complexity that may result from some lawsuits that would cause the city to seek outside legal help. Chairman Littlefield requested that report be included as part of the budget process.

Vice Mayor Ecton stated regarding the operating budget there is a Community Development Program in the southern part of the city for home improvement, ownership, and business incentives. He inquired if they have put enough money in the budget and what would happen there are a lot more requests than are funds for in the budget. Ms. Dolan stated there is a reserve fund and the budget amount is an estimate based on experience so there is flexibility built into that program.

Vice Mayor Ecton inquired about the projected \$13 million dollar revenue increase. Ms. Dolan reported that information regarding those funds would be included as part of the tentative budget package on May 17th.

Vice Mayor Ecton explained a long term concern of his is the aging population stating that there are people that live in nice houses but their spouse has died or gotten seriously ill and they feel locked in and have no way of getting out into the community. The city should look at ways of taking better care of the aging population in the entire city.

Vice Mayor Ecton stated that he takes pride in Scottsdale but felt they did not pay enough attention to trash pickup and brush pickup. He further stated that he sees volunteers in the north picking up trash but did not see in the central and southern areas. He remarked he felt they need a better program. He further remarked that they are taking steps in the downtown. Ms. Dolan provided a brief overview of the various ways they have tried to address these issues.

Chairman Littlefield requested they go back to the year-end unreserved fund balance and what is being recommended for those funds. Mr. Clifford stated he would suggest it be split between the general fund, economic investment, and CIP. Ms. Dolan stated that they would look at moving up some capital projects. Councilwoman-Elect Drake stated the mounted police barn should be replaced.

Vice Mayor Ecton stated he would like to look at funding the mail ballot noting the cost would not be a burden and could be taken out of the reserve. He further

stated it has been proven that some people like to get out and vote but there are some people who don't want to take the time to do that.

Chairman Littlefield requested the report have a section for recommendations for the FY 2004/05 Budget and another section that deals with general recommendations on projects.

Vice Mayor Ecton inquired if there was a job position in the Economic Vitality Department where a person would search out signature events. Ms. Dolan replied in the negative. She stated they have taken advantage that the Phoenix Civic Plaza is under construction and worked with many of the events that have been displaced by that and brought them to our community. The hope is that they would have a good experience and continue to stay. Vice Mayor Ecton stated there are many events around the country that would be appropriate for Scottsdale and he felt they should actively pursue them.

Chairman Littlefield requested information on the allocation for the fire transition and how the money would actually be spent. Ms. Dolan provided information on how the money would be allocated. Mr. Clifford discussed how the allocation would affect the budget. Mr Clifford indicated to comply with the state budget requirements we must budget high enough to cover the costs of the transition; however, the staff would do their best to control the costs and keep them under the budgeted transition amount. Chairman Littlefield requested that Ms. Dolan provide him with an accounting of the transition costs in July 2005. Ms. Dolan agreed the staff would provide a report on the transition costs to the Council.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Chairman Littlefield inquired if the Monday, April 19, 2004, subcommittee meeting should be rescheduled. Ms. Dolan stated staff needed additional time to respond to Councilwoman-Elect Drake's question so she suggested rescheduling the meeting. It was determined that staff would poll everyone and get back to them with a date and time.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

"For the Record" Court Reporters